



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana
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IM Weekly Highlights



- Roger Hays, Motorola, completed site work at several trunking sites in Gallatin County.
- National Guard last-mile microwave hops are nearing completion. One hop is yet to be constructed; then, connectivity testing will begin.
- Detailed engineering review on the Northern Tier generators will begin this month. The goal is to develop a solution to the starting problem.

PSSB Highlights

- PSSB held the first of three responder forums for updates to the Mutual Aid and Common Frequency Manual with fire service representatives.

Register Now for WBIWG!

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The 2010 Western Border Interoperability Working Group (WBIWG) is scheduled to take place in Regina, SK May 11-May 13. However, this event, which began in 2005, *is in danger of being cancelled if more people don't sign up by April 16!*



WBIWG meetings offer an opportunity for representatives from Western border states and provinces to interact with each other about radio interoperability issues. This annual get-together provides a platform for federal, state and provincial coordination of public safety communications and technologies with an emphasis on border areas.

To sign up, please send an e-mail to Kevin Roche, kevin.roche@gov.sk.ca, indicating your interest and contact information. Here is the initial schedule for the event:

- **Tuesday, May 11, 2010** - Evening Meet & Greet Social (at hotel)
- **Wednesday, May 12, 2010** - Main Meeting Session in the new auditorium at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Depot. Before the group dinner, participants may want to visit the RCMP Heritage Museum (<http://www.rcmpheritagecentre.com>.)
- **Thursday, May 13, 2010** - ½ Day Morning Session (at hotel)

Speakers thus far are:

- Kelly Glaspey, RCMP, Red River IBET
- Jackson Hamilton, RCMP, Alberta IBET and Bi-Lateral Initiative with Saskatchewan
- Inspector John Leitch, RCMP F-Division, OIC and Informatics Saskatchewan, Co-host and Welcoming Remarks
- Chris Lewis, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Karl Reardon, Saskatchewan Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN)
- (Invited) Dr. Paula Scalingi, Director, Center for Regional Disaster Resilience, PNWER

Kevin still has room for a few additional speakers, so please contact him if you are interested and available.

We realize that travel budgets are tight, but we do have a great history behind this event, and would love to see it be a success. We urge you to contact Kevin Roche ASAP to let him know that you plan to attend!

NACo Announces Free Webinar Series

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

NACo just announced a series of **free** webinars on emergency interoperable communications. Interested persons may register just once to participate in any of four webinars by signing up at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/636022690>.



All webinars take place from 12:00 - 1:30 pm MDT.

The first webinar is Tues., April 13, so sign up now! Once registered, you will receive an email confirming your registration with information you need to join the Webinar. You may even select an option to have all the webinars appear on your Outlook calendar.

The Webinar will be held on these dates and cover the following topics:

- **April 13:** Interoperable Communications Governance and the SAFECOM Continuum
- **April 27:** Developing Advanced Governance Structure Including Regional Governance Models
- **May 18:** Model Practices Engaged by Counties and Cities for Interoperable Communications
- **May 25:** Grants and Funding for Interoperable Communications

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Please feel free to share this registration information with others who might be interested in participating so they may sign up, too.

PSSB Initiates Mutual Aid Frequency Manual Review with Fire Services Meeting

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

Representatives from Montana's Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB), Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Dept. of Justice – Fire Marshal's Office, Montana Volunteer Firefighters Association, Montana State Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Services Training Center met on Mon., April 5 to review issues associated with updates and revisions to the Montana Mutual Aid and Common Frequency Manual. This meeting is the first of several with Montana response disciplines planned this spring.

Topics ranged from section updates and narrow-banding deadlines to the addition of new frequency resources for fire services. Wing Spooner, PSSB, will be lead editor for the project. As updates are formulated, the draft manual will be posted on the PSSB web page for additional comments and ideas by responders. The HAM will keep you posted on updates.

Publication of the updated guide is anticipated in late summer or fall 2010. Questions or comments may be submitted to sbradford@mt.gov and/or espooner@mt.gov.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Tues., April 13**

Mutual Aid Handbook Law Enforcement Council
Helena • 9:00 am – noon
Mitchell Building, Room 223, 125 N. Roberts St.

- **Tues., April 13**

NACo Webinar - Emergency Interoperability Series
Interoperable Communications Governance & the
SAFECOM Continuum

Internet • 12:00 – 1:30 pm MDT

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/636022690>

- **Wed., April 14**

South Central Montana Consortium (SCIMC)
Big Timber • 10:00 am – noon
Carnegie Library, 314 McLeod St.

- **Thurs., April 15**

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am – noon
Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.

- **Wed. & Thurs. April 21 & 22**

Blueprint for Excellence
Strategic Planning Session – By invitation
MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level, 2715 Skyway Dr.

- **Mon., April 26**

IM Technical Committee (IMTC)
Billings • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
BLM Offices, 5001 Southgate Drive

- **Tues., April 27**

State Agency Radio Users Task Force
Helena • 9:00 am - 11:00 pm
Old Livestock Building
1310 E. Lockey St.

- **Tues., April 27**

NACo Webinar – Emergency Interoperability Series:
Developing Advanced Governance Structure
Internet • 12:00 – 1:30 pm MDT
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/636022690>

- **Thurs., April 29**

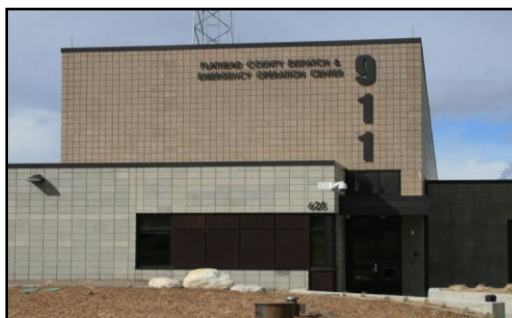
Big Sky 11 Consortium
Billings • 9:00 - Tech. Committee, 10:00 - Consortium
Yellowstone County EOC
2305 8th Ave. North

- **Fri., April 30 (Please Note Date Change)**

Montana Chapter of APCO
Miles City • 8:30 am
Comfort Inn, 1615 South Haynes Ave.

- **Tues., May 11 - Thurs., May 13**

Western Border Interoperability Working Group
Regina, SK • 7:00 pm – noon • RCMP Depot



The Flathead Emergency Communications Center (FECC) is a newly constructed, state-of-the-art, emergency operations center that will serve the citizens of Flathead County. The building will be occupied by the Office of Emergency Services as well as 9-1-1 dispatchers. Administrative personnel are expected to move into the building beginning next week. The dispatch center is scheduled to go live June 14.

